

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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FROM THE RIVERS TO THE SEAS, COMMUNISM WILL SET US FREE!

Chant in Solidarity with workers in Palestine

How do you spell fascists? IDF
How do you spell murderers? IDF



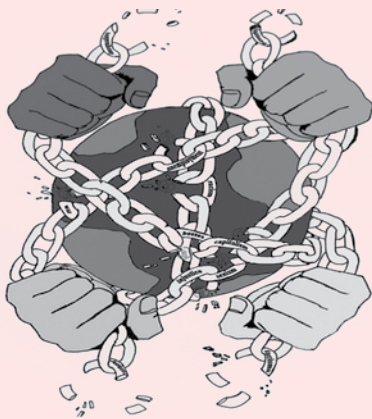
Hey, hey, ho, ho!
The occupation has got to go!



Joe Biden, you can't hide!
We charge you with genocide



They are killing kids overseas...
Shut it down!
They're killing kids in our streets...
Shut it down!
They're getting killed by bombs...
Shut it down!
They're getting killed by police...
Shut it down!
If they keep bombing...



Shut it down!
This racist system
Shut it down!
This genocidal system
Shut it down!
This capitalist system
Shut it down!
Shut this racist system down!



U.S., Israel hand in hand
racist murder is the bosses' plan,
From Palestine to Mexico
The bosses borders, got to go!

Washington DC, November 4—As the fascist state of Israel continues bombing civilians and advancing into Gaza, millions of workers around the world are holding massive protest demonstrations against the genocide of Palestinians.

Mass protest in D.C.

In Washington, DC, 100,000 or more marchers converged on the White House and the surrounding streets to demand that Israel halt the genocide of Palestinians. "Joe Biden, you can't hide, we charge you with genocide" rang throughout the march, recognizing the role of the U.S. ruling class in this war against the workers of Palestine. Marching side-by-side with thousands of angry workers, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) held up the banner for the only strategy that can guarantee liberation-- multi-racial, communist revolution! No nations, no borders, no capitalists!

Chants of Shut It Down! were directed to the capitalists of the U.S. and Israel, while linking the mass movement against Israeli fascism to the racist murders by police in the U.S.--many of whom have been trained by the Israeli army!

PLP workers from Maryland, Virginia, DC, and New York City organized a bullhorn rally by the so-called Freedom Plaza to address marchers with speeches calling for communist revolution and banners declaring **NO WAR BUT CLASS WAR and WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE**. Our ongoing rally called out capitalism, racism, imperialism, and genocide, reaching thousands of protesters with over 500 CHALLENGE newspapers and a similar number of flyers calling for Arab-Jewish unity for communism.

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

✧Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✧The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✧Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✧While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✧Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs every-one to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

✧Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✧Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✧Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✧Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✧Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Palestinian holocaust in the name of imperialism

In the night, when the nazi Israeli military viciously bombed Gaza’s largest hospital-turned-shelter, they forced 60,000 displaced workers and children to flee. This is just one atrocity in what can only be described as a genocide of the working class in occupied Gaza.

Since declaring war on Hamas, the Palestinian nationalist bosses who massacred more than a thousand Jewish and Arab workers, the Israeli capitalist rulers have killed a child every ten minutes in Gaza (Reuters, 11/10). In an area smaller than the city of Detroit, Israel has rained 25,000 tons of bombs, 1.5 times the force of the atomic bomb the U.S. dropped on Hiroshima in World War II (Anadolu Agency, 1/11). Israel redoubled its murderous efforts by cutting off water, food, fuel, and electricity to 2.3 million people.

Genocide is the natural outgrowth of a system of vicious competition for profits. The global crisis of capitalism is driving the carnage of workers in Sudan, Ethiopia, Congo, and Armenia, as well as in the Gaza Strip. The bosses solve their contradictions with small wars that inevitably lead to world war. Progressive Labor Party calls for no war but class war! Let’s build an international movement from East to West, North to South, for communist revolution—our only solution.

U.S.’s entanglements amid decay

The instability in the world today reflects a dramatic shift in imperialist competition, with the U.S. in sharp decline and Chinese finance capital rapidly ascending to challenge for worldwide supremacy. The genocide now underway in Gaza was spurred by a move by Saudi Arabia and Israel to “normalize” their relations, a deal that threatened to further isolate Iran and Hamas (Egmont Institute, 10/11). It also reflects the fight to control Middle East oil and the U.S. “pivot” to Asia, a desperate attempt to contain China. This left traditional U.S. allies like Saudi Arabia feeling abandoned and the Middle East open for business with U.S. rivals—again, mainly China.

The U.S. may soon face a three-front war it can’t win: in the Middle East, against a Russia-backed Iran; in Eastern Europe via the Ukraine-Russia war; and in the South China Sea and Taiwan in a battle over shipping routes, naval dominance, and semiconductors. Tensions are growing between the U.S. and its NATO allies and the BRICS alliance of emerging economies, which includes Brazil, India, and South Africa as well as China and Russia.

Since its founding in 1948, Israel has played a big role as a junior partner of U.S. imperialism—first as a counterweight to Russian influence in the region, then to counter Iran. In return, the U.S. has armed the brutal Israeli bosses to the teeth and financed their fascist occupation of Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza. Now, as children in Gaza are dismembered and premature babies in incubators die for lack of electricity, the U.S. is sending an additional \$320 million in weapons to the Israeli killing machine (New York Times, 11/6).

Meanwhile, once-solid alliances seem more fragile by the day. Regional rulers make lukewarm calls for a cease-fire. Turkey and Colombia, formerly staunch U.S. allies, have pulled their ambassadors from Israel. Iran, the chief U.S. rival in the region, has exploited this volatility to its advantage. The chief funder of Hamas, Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, and the Houthis in Yemen (Vox, 10/14), Iran has encouraged their attacks on U.S. installations. Iranian-backed militias recently attacked two U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria.

As a deterrent, the U.S. has shifted additional warships, missile systems, and 2,000 Marines to the Middle East (Reuters, 10/21). But now they’re worried they’ll be spread too thin to prepare for the coming war with China and Russia (NY Times, 11/9).

Despite the beginning of a global transition to renewable energy, oil will remain the lifeblood of capitalism for the foreseeable future. China gets half of its oil from the Middle East. Through its Belt and Road Initiative, it has gained a foothold in port cities that link the Persian Gulf to the Arabian, Red, and Mediterranean Seas. China’s real agenda is “increasing military cooperation and ex-

porting...surveillance technologies to countries under BRI” (Arab Center DC, 1/13/21).

Between the Abraham Accords, a 2020 peace deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, and the proposed Saudi-Israeli peace agreement, Iran was confronted with the prospect of “U.S.-centered” alliances controlling “the maritime choke points of the Straits of Hormuz, the Suez Canal, and the Straits of Bab Al Mandab” ((Egmont Institute, 10/11). That was an existential threat to the Iranian bosses. To disrupt the deal between Israel and the Saudi bosses, Iran is widely speculated to have pushed Hamas to conduct its October 7 slaughter.

It’s important to note that workers shouldn’t be fooled by peace deals and promises of “normalization.” At best, these agreements only delay the eventual inter-imperialist war to determine which capitalists will reign supreme. Workers have only two choices: to accept war and fascism, or to build a revolutionary communist party.

Nationalism is deadly

Hamas, like all junior capitalists, is driven by profit, not the needs of workers and children of Gaza. The group’s nationalism undermines the essential unity of Arab and Jewish workers. To paraphrase a PLP document, “Nationalism Hurts the Palestinian Struggle” (1974), the task is not to determine who is the rightful owner of the land of Palestine/Israel. Rather, it is to fight for communism—for the collective ownership of all means of production by the working class.

No matter how militant they may seem, nationalist movements are counter-revolutionary. Consider Haiti, the world’s first “free” Black republic. Enslaved by debt to French bankers, occupied mercilessly by U.S. and UN forces, it has become a workers’ hell run by local capitalist gangsters. Or consider South Africa, where a courageous struggle wound up replacing white bosses with Black rulers who happily worked with the same white bosses—as long as they could steal their share of the spoils. Today South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world, with the wealth gap between white and Black workers unchanged since apartheid (Time Magazine, 8/5/21).

These national liberation movements, and too many more, show what happens when fights against imperialism fail to fight for international communist liberation. We must reject both Zionism and Palestinian nationalism, both anti-Muslim racism and anti-Jewish racism. The workers united will never be defeated!

Workers charge bosses with genocide

We can’t fall into the trap of backing any bosses—not the ruthless gangsters of Hamas, not the genocidal state terrorists of Israel. We must win workers, youth, and soldiers to the idea that an attack on one is an attack on all. When the capitalist system resorts to violence, to remain silent is to fall in line with the bosses’ war agenda.

What we choose to do matters. We need to look no further than the anti-Vietnam War movement started by Progressive Labor Party in the 1960s. Though it was later co-opted by the liberal bosses, the movement inspired millions of workers worldwide to fight back against U.S. imperialist genocide and support the heroic workers in Vietnam—who later were themselves betrayed by their own nationalist rulers.

Today, wherever we look, we see sparks of working-class rage against the Israeli bosses’ genocide. From Britain and Barcelona, Spain to Tacoma, Washington, and Oakland, California, antiracist dockworkers and protesters are blocking shipments of arms and Israel-bound warships.

No ruling class of the world can stop the international working class. If you agree, let’s make these small victories last by building an international communist party. We need to arm millions upon millions with the most powerful weapon in the world: communist ideas. Only then can the working class smash the capitalists’ borders and end their terror for all time. Join us! ✧

APHA

Health students rage vs. Israel state terrorism

ATLANTA, GA, November 12—“Ho Ho, Hey Hey, Biden, how many kids have you killed today?” yelled the masked public health students as they descended, forty strong, on the Emory School of Public Health Dean’s Alumni Reception. The protesting students were all wearing clear latex gloves painted red to represent the blood everyone has on their hands by staying silent while the imperialist U.S. government continued to send billions to fund the fascist Israeli government’s genocide of Palestinians.

The gathering of public health alumni at the Rollins School of Public Health was being held Sunday evening to celebrate the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual meeting taking place in Atlanta. While attendees of the reception drank wine and ate cheese as a live band played, the contrast between the masked, militant students with signs calling out genocide and chanting into bullhorns in the middle of this reception was stark.

The students are furious at the silence of the School of Public Health administration regarding the ongoing genocide of Palestinian workers in Gaza. The protest was multiracial; most of the protesters were Arab and Black students, but there were also Asian and white students present. They were united in their anger at the school’s unwillingness to call for a ceasefire. After marching through the reception and disrupting it, they went outside and stood at the windows with ongoing chanting. Two women from the reception left and came out to join the protest. They told demonstrators, “We couldn’t stay in there after you all came in, we would be on the wrong side.”

Private universities often have ties to Israel, as does Emory. Emory’s Institute for the Study of Modern Israel is one way that they fund students and faculty to participate in this ongoing imperialist project. Just this year, Emory boasted about strengthening their ties with Tel Aviv University (8/11). On October 11th, following Hamas’ attack on Israel, Emory University President Fenves declared support for Israel while acknowledging his Jewish heritage, but remained silent about the loss of Palestinian life and discrimination that Muslim students were facing on campus (10/11). It’s not surprising considering their financial ties – and personal ones with Emory Alum serving in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) (10/10). President Fenves encouraged respectful disagreement; the focus on “respect” and “professionalism” that liberal universities resort to in instances like these shows their true nature. Profes-



Communism is the revolutionary cure for the ills of capitalism and imperialism.

sionalism has no place during ethnic cleansing.

Public health “professionals” often tout the line that evidence-based strategies are the most important for healthy populations. However, it was clear here that evidence crumbles when there are financial incentives. One Emory student got on the bullhorn and said, “I learned in this very building that war and violence have detrimental effects on health.” They continued by explaining we know that a ceasefire is the answer for the health of the Palestinian people, but Emory doesn’t care because of their financial ties to Israel. Other students echoed this call: they learned at the School of Public Health that racism is a social determinant of health, yet the University is showing its true racist nature.

As Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members who had heard of this action from a friend and made the 5-mile trip out to the reception site from the APHA conference to participate in solidarity with the students, we were impressed by their multiracial, well-organized militancy. The students were very serious in their organizing and security—they had planned the rally in secret and when we arrived at the reception, it was clear that no one knew the protest was coming. They had sent in advance scouts into the reception and communicated via secure text messages to coordinate. Almost every

single person was wearing an N95 or KN95 mask and others took additional measures to conceal their identity, wearing sunglasses and head scarves. Many of the students were dressed almost completely in black.

Once we were outside, there were speeches and we were invited to speak on the mic too. Making connections between racism here and imperialism abroad was a point that was well-received by the students. This point was made even clearer when a person from Emory University’s “Open Expression Committee” came to tell us that we were in violation of the school’s free speech policies! She said we had to either move the rally or stop using the bullhorn. If we didn’t, we would be at risk of arrest by the Atlanta Police Department (APD). The students called out the racism of siccing the police on Black and Brown students protesting racist genocide.

The concept of “free speech” under capitalism is laughable. It is a liberal performance, tricking working-class people into thinking they have “freedom” in this system. It’s clear that the APD had no interest in supporting protestors’ freedoms of any kind. The students saw right through this. The rally ended safely and those of us in PLP were inspired by the internationalism, anti-racism, anti-imperialism, and sharp, confrontational nature of this action. Power to the working class!🇵🇸

NYC: forum unites world’s workers against genocide



From Brooklyn to Gaza smash imperialist violence with multiracial unity and communist revolution.

NEW YORK CITY, November 15—Progressive Labor Party members took the lead in organizing a forum about Israel-Hamas and the genocide of workers in Palestinian at Make the Road New York, a community organization in Brooklyn. Fifty working-class sisters and brothers attended from disparate places, several Latin countries, Palestine, India, Japan, the Philippines and the United States, all living now in New York City.

‘Immediate connection’

A Palestinian woman spoke about the lives of her grandparents and family in Palestine before being forcibly displaced and her young life growing up in a

gee camp in Jordan. “We were simple villagers and communicated by passing stories from one village to another. We were tied to the land and our crops of olives which would become olive oil.”

Families were big, spread out and unprepared for the imperialist Zionist onslaught that burned homes and crops, killing people on their land, causing people to disperse and flee. There was an immediate connection between her and her family and friends at the forum and immigrant workers, mainly from Mexico, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic in the room.

Workers don’t need to be told what is just or unjust. They know how capitalism, colonialism and imperi-

alism have destroyed their lives and forced them to make long, perilous journeys to the very imperialist countries that have caused them to flee, these experiences crystallized in a combination of sadness and rage which the Palestinian woman expressed. Their common experience is a force whirling beneath the surface, sometimes exploding in class rage.

It’s about profit, not religion

The following speaker described how for thousands of years peasants and traders, Jews, Christians and Muslims, lived side by side in Palestine. After World

War I, British colonialists eyeballed the Middle East as a gold mine for them because of the oil. Then began the program of dividing, displacing and killing Palestinians. After World War II, the U.S. saw the Zionist state as their anchor in the area to counter the Soviet Union and to control the drilling, shipping and sale of the black gold-oil. Racist, nazi-like attacks to kill and displace Palestinians sharpened, as we see in Gaza now.

The working class of the world has no countries. We must unite to destroy capitalism.

A comrade concluded the forum with a description of the massive protests against genocide in Gaza all over the world. We need revolution, workers’ power to break our chains. “Tis the final conflict, let each stand in their place, the international working class will be the human race!”

Workers clapped and agreed to mobilize for a march in Bushwick. Onward!🇵🇸

Transit workers in motion vs union hacks

Conflicts at our transit union meeting have been really heating up. For the past three meetings attendance has doubled and pushback against the union's deceptions is sharp. Our union representatives (reps) and chairperson had to answer why there was no meeting the past two months (July and August) during the finalization of a new contract and a general pick (where all workers in one department must choose a new job title, hours, and location) looming over our heads. This union meeting we made them answer us which resulted in the longest union meeting we've had, which was three hours. With this added anger and frustration with the union, we're learning how to strike back by declaring motions (creating a new rule). We have no illusions about the union's rules or laws to support the workers. Workers in the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) understand that these attempts at reforming the union are mainly a way to create opportunities to show our base the limitations of the union when the union fails to offer a real solution which is communism.

The first motion we made was in June, right after the union got our summer meetings canceled by having their pawns show up and vote to cancel the summer meetings. This was during the contract negotiations where we, the workers, had no idea what was being discussed at the bargaining table at the board meetings with the transit bosses. The chairperson in our sector of the union used to be on the board but got voted off by the other board members. And someone is supposed

to report on the minutes (topic of discussion) from the board. So a worker asked, "So there's nothing we can do about this?" The chairperson replies, "Yes, you can make a motion". So then, we made a motion to remove elected officials who are at the board meetings but don't attend our monthly meetings to report on the minutes of the board meetings. We felt proud that we had accomplished something after years of not knowing how to provoke change in the union. Nevertheless, we knew this wasn't the end of our union struggles but a pathway to the right track of base building.

Our last union meeting was in September where we learned that our motion had to be voted on by the workers who went to morning meetings as well. So be it. The more workers know about the motions the better. It was the workers who made other meetings and shared ideas of more motions to make. So we made three more motions that night. The first was to prevent future summer meetings from being canceled, the second was to provide every new union official with the phone and emails of the other union leaders so they could stay in contact which was another excuse they gave to not have an answer to our questions. The third was to grant the board members a minimum of 48 hours to fully read a new proposal before voting on it. Our chair said: 'They only get 15 minutes to read a motion or rule before voting on it.' The union misleaders always have an excuse as to why they don't know something or why they couldn't find an answer to our ques-

tions, which is just code for leave us alone, stop asking us questions and we're not here to help the workers. But these motions will help bring their lies to light. So we will find out the results from the board at our next meeting, said the chair.

Our last meeting in October was when we learned that not only did the board members not vote on our motions, but they hadn't seen them at all. Not even surprising. The union reps said, "it was a timing issue." Immediately the workers looked hopeless. We should've planned better to combat their lies and deceptions. But we have another strategy to unite workers which is to create an antiracist committee to support workers affected by racism which we would connect to workers in Gaza. Even if it won't be approved by the union misleaders, comrades and transit workers will take leadership over it. Especially if workers respond to this calling.

We know this is a small start, and it's not an active fightback, but it's a way for workers to begin to reclaim their power, to have the workers talk publicly about racist conditions on the job and overseas. Most workers want to take action but when we have union leaders that shut down our concerns it makes us feel like there's no changing the system. It would really be awesome to get the workers in a room to brainstorm about combating racist attacks on our class. Stay tuned for the next update on this struggle.☺

Bolshevik Revolution Celebration

We'll make history & win victory, again



CHICAGO, November 5 -- The spirit of communist revolution was strong tonight at Progressive Labor Party's (PLP) annual Bolshevik Revolution celebration. Over fifty multiracial, multigenerational workers and their families attended. We participated in discussions centered around the profit-based slaughter of workers and children in the Middle East and the role of U.S. imperialism in that part of the world. We also built small models of the pro-worker bus stops that were built in the Soviet Union. These bus stops were developed by the Soviet government to highlight multiethnic working-class culture and artistry, in contrast to the anti-communist lie that revolutionary society was bleak and barren of color.

The evening was highlighted by several dynamic speakers, including a Ford auto worker, fresh off the picket line, a worker from the Steelworkers Union, and a young PLP leader who gave the keynote address. The Ford worker talked about how he looked to the Party for leadership during the auto worker's strike. He first met the Party in high school, and more recently on the picket line. We look forward to inviting this auto worker to a study group and helping build the revolu-

tionary movement in the auto industry.

The steelworkers' union member stood at his union meeting to propose that their local support the auto worker's strike by sending a thousand dollars and organizing activities in support of their strike. Both proposals were approved. He explained how the concept of internationalism is so important, and that nationalist wars only benefit the capitalists:

"To me, when you look at the Ukrainian and Russian war, and the Israeli genocide, you see working people being slaughtered. It shows the terrible consequences when we let nationalism get the best of us. You see farmers killing farmers, miners killing miners, students killing students, unemployed killing unemployed. It's really oligarchs fighting oligarchs. These wars are all about fighting for profits--from oil, raw materials, cheap labor, and markets. So, like striking, it takes guts to take internationalism and antiracism seriously. We have to look past phony borders that have been created to keep workers divided. Workers' lives have always improved when they have stuck together!"

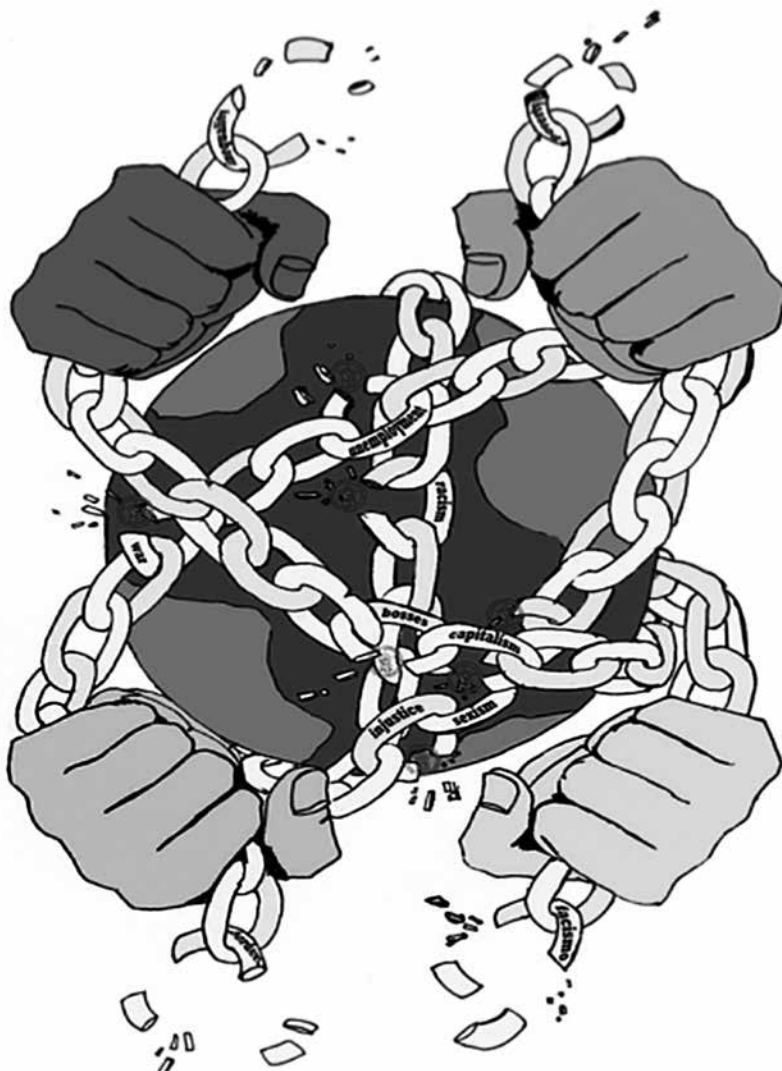
The keynote speaker gave reasons why we celebrate

the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in 2023. "We celebrate the Bolshevik Revolution because it was the first time the working class seized state power and liberated one-sixth of the world's land mass, and every worker in it from the grips of feudalism and capitalism. We celebrate because the bosses want us to forget our working-class history. We celebrate because sometimes it feels like we won't win. We celebrate because we need to remember that our class made a revolution before, and WE WILL DO IT AGAIN. The Bolsheviks showed us that if we truly commit ourselves to our class, and follow the plan, we can free our class from this misery. The Bolsheviks were a tiny Party in 1905, and twelve years later, they led the working class of Russia to victory!"

We are on the cusp of a historical shift from liberal "democratic" capitalism to war and fascism throughout the world. The racist Zionist bombardment on Gaza and the war in Ukraine is symptomatic of the inter-imperialist rivalry between the U.S. and its rivals, China and Russia. The PLP is building an alternative movement for communist revolution and worker liberation. Join us.☺

History of Palestine-Israel

Nationalism hurts fight against Israeli Apartheid state



The aim of this history of Palestine-Israel is to show how nationalism has worsened conditions for Palestinian and Israeli workers. It has enabled in both regions as well as ensured that imperialists retain power.

An overview of the present

The U.S. heavily relies on Israel. As Biden said in 2013, "If there were not an Israel, we would have to invent one to make sure our interests were preserved." (See editorial on page 2)

Some U.S. leaders would prefer that Israel were not so brutal toward Palestinians, which has created a growing international backlash. Over 6800 Palestinians have been killed and thousands injured or displaced by attacks on Gaza from 2008 -2023 compared to about 300 Israelis (excluding the recent conflict). Basic services such as electricity, potable water, and medical care are increasingly scarce in Gaza, making it unlivable by any standard, and are now completely cut off.

Before the current conflict, throughout the Occupied Territories (OT) of the West Bank (WB) and Gaza, Palestinians could be killed with impunity, were subject to military courts that allow torture and internment without charges -40% of Palestinian men have been or are in prison.

Unemployment is 27% in the WB and 49% in Gaza; poverty is 36% and 64% respectively, and travel is highly restricted even for work or medical care. The Covid vaccine, widely available in Israel, was mostly denied to the OT. The 20% of Israeli citizens who are Palestinian are subject to many limitations on where they can live or build, have fewer legal rights, lower wages and services.

Currently Israel is in the process of demolishing homes of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, homes they moved into after being displaced from West Jerusalem decades ago. The number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank has grown to over 500,000.

Under the new Netanyahu government, attacks on Palestinians by settlers have markedly increased under military protection, with an open plan to regain all the land for Israel.

Israel relies on a diet of racism to survive as a Jewish state. From early childhood, Jews are taught that all Arabs hate them and wish only to destroy them and are fed a false historical narrative about the formation of the Israeli state and all the subsequent conflicts. This racism is used to justify the militarization of soci-

ety and Israel's role as a Western nuclear outpost and its own great inequality and lack of sufficient resources for most Jewish workers.

The Palestinians are also led by nationalist parties, Fatah and Hamas, which care not for the welfare of their workers and enrich only the few at the top.

The birth of Zionism

From the late 1800s onward the Middle East became the target of European imperialists, primarily France and Britain, who hoped to capture it from the Turkish Ottoman Empire. As the source of oil, which became the major military and industrial fuel at the time of World War I, the region grew vastly in importance.

Jewish workers had begun emigrating from Europe to Palestine in the late 1800s. Zionism, in parallel with the growing European nationalisms of the late 19th century, called on Jewish workers to relinquish their group identity based solely on religion for an identity tied to a Jewish state.

Many Eastern European Jewish workers had been part of multi-ethnic working class communist movements and were called on instead to support a multi-class solely Jewish state in Palestine.

The reasoning was that this state was necessary to fight anti-Semitism, which was seen as an ineradicable, special form of racism. As the great majority of Zionists sought only to displace rather than live with the native population, Zionism became a settler-colonial movement in Palestine.

The Zionist aim of setting up a Jewish state populated by European pro-Westerners appealed to Britain, which saw Zionism's potential for a military and cultural outpost in the area. At the same time as the British were promising a unified state to the Arabs, they promised a homeland in Palestine to the Zionists with the Balfour Declaration of 1917.

In addition, under the secret Sykes-Picot Agreement, they promised to divide all Arab lands amongst their WWI allies. Support for a pan-Arab country was quickly replaced by the creation of smaller colonies: Palestine, Transjordan, Iraq, and Kuwait controlled by Britain, and Syria and Lebanon controlled by France.

From the 1930s onward, as more oil was discovered in the Middle East, and in the post-war era, when the US became the major imperialist power, many developments took place: US oil companies took control in Saudi Arabia, the US engineered coups in Iran and

Iraq and made deals with nationalist leaders in Egypt and Syria.

In all of these countries U.S. efforts were helped by local left-wing nationalists who abandoned class struggle in order to side with pro-US nationalists against the British. In the 1950s, the U.S. also began supporting Islamic fundamentalism as an antidote to socialist, communist, and pan-Arabist movements.

In the decades after WWII, the Soviet Union and its allies (hoping to deter British imperialism), West Germany, and then the French became the major supporters of Israel, with the US becoming the major Israeli backer after 1967.

The Israeli state was created in 1948 following massive Jewish immigration after WWII, largely because the US and Britain would allow only a trickle of Jews to enter their own countries before, during and after the war. The Zionists were anxious to build their population and an army to defend the new country.

During the war, the founders of Israel cut a deal with the Nazis to help get 400,000 Hungarian Jews into the gas chambers in exchange for a train load of Zionists being freed to form the heart of the Israeli ruling class.

When statehood was granted by the UN, Jews were given 55% of the land, although they owned only 6% at the time and comprised about 30% of the population.

The founding Zionists, however, wanted all of the land, and began the Nakba, a program of terrorization and forced displacement of 700,000-900,000 Palestinians, six out of seven Arabs who had lived in what is now Israel, and the destruction of over 500 villages. This process was facilitated by a secret deal with Jordan, the only well-armed Arab state, which was rewarded with Jordanian control of the WB.

Many refugees were forced into what are now the West Bank and Gaza, while others fled to neighboring countries.

In 1967 Israel launched a war to defeat the pan-Arab movement being built by the Egyptian nationalist leader Nasser. Jordan was driven out of the West Bank and Jerusalem, Egypt out of Gaza, Syria out of the Golan Heights, and the longest military occupation of modern history began in the Golan Heights, West Bank, and Gaza.

Multiracial unity of workers

Despite this history and many conflicts between Arab and Jewish workers, there are also instances of Arab-Jewish worker solidarity and trade union struggles from 1920-1947.

These struggles were systematically undermined by nationalists representing the capitalists on both sides. Communists who supported unified organizing were expelled from the main Jewish labor organization, the Histadrut, by 1930. A large primarily anti-British Arab revolt began in 1931, and both Jews and Arabs who stood for unity were killed by nationalists. Although some joint strikes in railway and civil service continued into the 1940s, the nationalist forces were victorious on both sides.

At the end of WWII, large communist parties and militant trade unions existed in Iran, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine and Iraq. Unfortunately, these parties were tied to the Soviet Union, whose two-stage theory of revolution prescribed fighting for national liberation from imperialists before establishing communism. Thus leftists united with bourgeois forces to oppose the British. Even the Palestine Communist Party separated into two national camps by 1943. As US interests grew in the 1950s, it supported nationalist movements while also attacking local communists. Meanwhile, the USSR was instructing the communists to support nationalists like Egypt's Nasser even as he was jailing and executing them.

After Israeli statehood in 1948, the Arab and Jewish populations were increasingly segregated from each other, including in the workplace. Israel did allow Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to commute daily to work in Israel from 1967 to 1992, but since then, Israel has completely sealed its borders.

Bosses now import workers from Africa, Asia, and

Continued on page 7

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

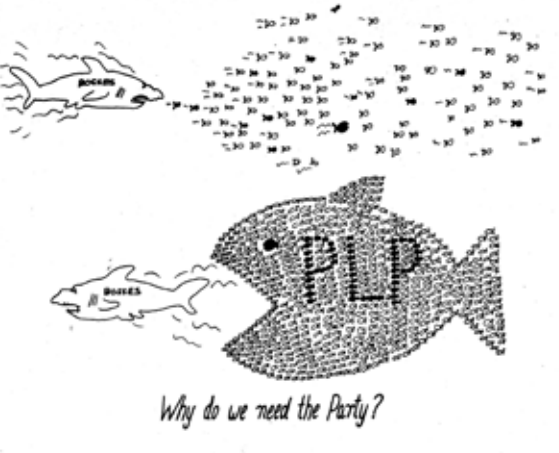
Healthcare workers clapback vs Israel's Holocaust

A demonstration called by Health Care Workers for Palestine (HCW4pal), a group of mostly young Palestinian medical students, house staff, nurses, physician assistants, and other workers organized a crowd of several hundred. Members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) were there distributing CHALLENGEs and flyers.

Members of HCW4pal and others have been threatened and fired, including a New York University Hospital resident, for making pro-Palestinian statements on social media. HCW4pal has been supporting those who have come under attack for speaking out against the genocide being carried out in Gaza and have continued to protest against the Israeli and U.S. policies there that have left over 11,000 mainly civilian Palestinians dead. Speakers detailed the horrible conditions in Gaza which include lack of water, food, medical supplies, and fuel and an Israeli invasion that has turned Gaza from an open-air prison to a free-fire killing zone.

HCW4pal invited a member of Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP) to speak to the crowd. JVP is a firmly anti-zionist organization that views Israel as an apartheid state. The speaker, having traveled to Israel and the West Bank many times between 2004 and 2015, joined JVP to organize against the racist conditions she saw there. The speaker asked the crowd to think about whose side they are on. She said that as a Jewish woman, she feels nothing in common with Anthony Blinken or Benjamin Netanyahu. Nor does she have anything in common with the Palestinian Authority or Hamas. They act in concert with Israel to limit dissent and oppress workers in Gaza and the West Bank. She pointed out that since 1987, the Israeli government has given aid to Hamas to weaken other Palestinian organizations.

She said she supports workers who are fighting back everywhere in the world. In conclusion, she said we need to unite workers all around the world and build unity between Arab and Jewish workers to get rid of capitalism, colonialism, and imperialism that is the cause of all the misery we see today in Gaza. This call for working-class unity and struggle and similar sentiments by two other speakers were loudly applauded.



★★★★★

Detroit: rebuilding a fighting club

We are two veteran comrades in Detroit who were re-motivated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine to organize a discussion group on current events with friends and family members. Five of the group went to Mayday in Chicago in 2022.

Afterward, the discussion group continued to meet, attendance fluctuating from four to seven. We missed Mayday in 2023 but traveled to the Party convention in NYC.

Then the auto strike happened and we went to the picket line five times, distributing a leaflet and the newspaper. A comrade from NYC provided us with the leaflet and invited us to Zoom chat about the strike. Another comrade from Kentucky, in town visiting friends, joined us on the picket line. One of our group made friends with an auto worker and is continuing that friendship. Another member of the group has a brother who is an auto worker whom we have been in touch with.

Then Israel/Gaza happened and we printed two hundred fliers and distributed them at Wayne State University and the University of Michigan at Dearborn. Two people gave us their names and phone numbers.

We have many weaknesses but we are pressing forward, organizing for MayDay 2024, and hoping to eventually see a Progressive Labor Party club in the Motor City again.

★★★★★



From Brookly to Gaza, smash racism

On the day of a call for student walkouts in NYC public schools, the Student Council at my school stopped business as usual and held an urgent meeting about Gaza. Here's what some conversations leading up to the meeting sounded like:

The week before, a Black student had reached out to me: "We really need to spread awareness of what's happening in Gaza. Students are dead. We need to do something, anything."

During lunch the next day, a Muslim student confided, "My parents don't want me outside because they don't want me to get hurt."

Yet another remarked how "even though I'm not Muslim, my mom is worried" about her covering her hair with a scarf in public. Mom didn't want her daughter to be a victim of an anti-Muslim hate crime.

When the genocide first started, a teacher told me her Yemeni student scribbled "Free Palestine" on his eraser during class.

Students are clearly facing the effects of this nakba (catastrophe in Arabic).

So, the Student Council meeting had 23 students, majority Black and one Muslim, and two teachers. We began by chanting our club motto, "An injustice to one is an injustice to all," and proceeded to gather our thoughts on poster paper: what questions, facts, emotions, and opinions we had about the topic.

Some questions cropped up multiple times: why is this happening? Who started it? When will this end? How come they have money for Israel but not us? Will there be peace? What are we supposed to do now?

The conversation evolved into two camps of thought: cynical individualism versus solidarity.

Some felt isolated from the situation and felt powerless to stop it, which is in part a recognition that we are not part of the decision-making class in the world. But without an alternative, that turns into helplessness and the mindset that what we do "doesn't matter anyway."

At the height of the disagreement, students compared their lives under occupation by the NYPD and school system. "I'm scared for my life walking in these streets. Where were they during Black Lives Matter, but you want me to support them now?"

Others were appalled and responded, "We need to learn to have more sympathy even if we don't know them. If you know something, at least spread the word and have a conversation so we don't repeat history." One even said, "This sounds like oppression olympics."

When the student had voiced how they were scared for their lives, they were on to something. The missing connection here is that whether you are a student in Gaza or Brooklyn, you have the enemy fight and the same fight. The ones who train NYPD are the same people who have a fascist exchange session with the IDF. Whether the ruling class is killing kids in the streets, or kids overseas, we need to shut this system down.

I showed a YouTube video linking the civil rights

movement in the U.S. to the movement for Palestinians. They weren't convinced, yet.

Clearly, we have to win students towards multiracial unity and away from all forms of nationalism. Students had ideas on what to do, which included making solidarity art, organizing a minute of silence, creating a support group for those affected, and more. Today was the first step to what we hope will be a mass fight-back against racism. Stay tuned!

★★★★★

Liberal fascism grows in schools

This is what growing fascism looks like

On November 8 at 11:17 am, a day before the New York City student walkout against the genocide in Gaza, Chancellor David C. Banks sent out a threatening email against political organizing. The terror campaign against anyone who speaks out is real.

Last month, a high school teacher named Mohammad Ahmad was dragged into the tabloids for correctly calling Israel a "terror state" and Banks a "white supremacist imperialist scumbag." A pre-k teacher named Siriana Abboud was also attacked as anti-Jewish for asking parents to join protests and teaching about the history of Israel-Palestine by saying things like, "We aren't teaching the truth if we're silent on Palestine." First, they are coming for Muslim workers, Arab workers, Brown workers, and any workers who call for the thing education bosses fear most: a real education told by the working class and calls for student-family-worker unity.

In the email, racist Banks stated we should not express "personal political views about political matters during the school day, on school grounds, while working at school events," including on "social media." He continues, "When speech and action — even on one's personal time — undermines the mission or core function of NYCPS [public schools], we will review and take appropriate action." He then attached the latest update on the Chancellor's Regulations.

Yet on October 10 at 5:31 pm, this same chancellor sent out an email "unequivocally condemn[ing] these horrific" attacks against "Israeli civilians—including children." He goes on, "the brutality and trauma wrought by Hamas upon innocent people—especially our youngest members of society—is devastating." Of course, Hamas are capitalist gangsters slaughtering and kidnapping Israeli kids. But, not once did he condemn the bombs dropped on Gaza's children. It's as if Palestinian lives didn't matter.

The Chancellor before him, Richard Carranza, in the summer of 2020, sent out an email on June 3 at 9:19am condemning the "murder of George Floyd" and was agonized" by "this abominable disregard for Black lives." If Chancellors cared about Black children, why is New York City still the most segregated school system in this hellhole of a country? Why are Black boys and girls being disproportionately suspended, pushed out, and terrorized by metal detectors every day? Of course, these Chancellors (be they Black, Latin) are no friends of our working-class kids.

I say this to make the point that as the world spirals deeper into crisis, the ruling class will use the language of "inclusion" and "diversity" to attack anti-racist fightbacks.

As the world's children gain more class consciousness and their learning conditions become ever more unsustainable, the education bosses—a tentacle of the capitalist government—will codify fascism. They do so by distorting reality, taking more control of what/how we teach, creating an atmosphere of fear and terror in the face of mass murders, passing laws explicitly attacking our class, and thus exposing the bosses dictatorship behind this democracy.

To this, we education workers say: in the name of kids who die, smash the bosses and their state. A daunting task, isn't it? But, the only other option is to accept, pretend, drug, and selfcare our way into oblivion. If we haven't started the fight, we need to begin at the beginning: a conversation. If we start, we need to continue building.

As for the struggle, more details are coming next time! Fight on, comrades and friends!

★★★★★

History:

Arab, Jewish, Black, white To end genocide, we must unite!



Turn bosses imperialist wars into class war for communism

Continued from page 5

Eastern Europe, to whom they pay the bare minimum. This has not only increased Israeli capitalists' profits, but has caused massive unemployment in Palestine and cut off nearly all contact between Israelis and Palestinians.

The scourge of nationalism

The WB and Gaza, despite being occupied and oppressed, are both capitalist, nationalist entities. The Palestinian Authority (PA), the branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) that is in power in the WB, is dominated by a small group of wealthy capitalists with ties to Israeli capitalists and wealthy Palestinian businessmen in the diaspora. The Palestinian Development Plan of 2007 encouraged privatization, foreign investment, and made service cuts of 21% in the public sector. 78% of the Palestine Stock Exchange is owned by a few rich families.

The Palestinian Authority spends over one quarter of its budget on security, the same amount as on health and education combined, mostly to suppress

revolt against Israel. In fact, the PA is such a reliable partner for Israel, that they were warned before the Gaza invasions. So unpopular are the policies of Fatah that Hamas won an electoral victory in 2006, mostly a vote against Fatah.

Hamas, an oppressor

Hamas is a fundamentalist party also controlled by a small wealthy elite, whose growth Israel supported in the 1980s through today, to decrease the appeal of secular nationalism, much as the US had done with fundamentalists in Afghanistan to oppose the Soviets. Driven out of the WB but victorious in Gaza in 2007, Hamas has been in power there ever since. The impoverished people of Gaza are taxed at exorbitant rates of over 60%, and Hamas pays high salaries and sells land only to its own loyalists. They enact a reactionary theocracy (religious state), which is, of course, very sexist, and have forged relationships with the fundamentalist rulers of Qatar, Iran, Bahrain and Turkey. They use international aid sent to Gaza to enrich themselves and build their military machine, all while workers in Gaza suffer.

The leaders live in capitalist excess and periodically

engage in military shows that inevitably harm thousands of civilians.

Israel too is a disgustingly unequal society controlled by a small ruling elite. Eighteen ruling families have incomes equal to 77% of the national budget and take in 32% of the profits from the 500 largest companies.

These differentials fall along racist lines. Immigrant workers, mostly from Africa and South Asia, are the worst paid, as are Palestinians. Dark skinned Israelis of Arab or African heritage are also low on the scale in wages and services. The GINI index, a measure of inequality within a society, shows the US and Israel to be right next to each other in 3rd and 4th and 5th place in the world depending on the year.

Nationalism equals death

Nationalism and capitalism have led to death and misery for the majority of Jewish and Palestinian workers, although as with black workers in the US, the Palestinians bear a far greater burden.

Only a multiracial communist struggle will be able to free all the workers in the Middle East from imperialist and racist oppression. ☸



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Pakistan's bosses forcing migrants out

Reuters, 10/31—As the clock ticked down to the Nov. 1 deadline Pakistan set for undocumented migrants to leave the country, Muhammad Rahim boarded a bus from Karachi to the Afghan border. "We'd live here our whole life if they didn't send us back," said the 35-year-old Afghan national, who was born in Pakistan, married a Pakistani woman, and raised his Pakistan-born children in the port city - but has no Pakistani identity documents. The Taliban government in Afghanistan said some 60,000 Afghans returned between Sept 23 to Oct 22 from Pakistan, which announced on Oct 4 it would expel undocumented migrants who do not leave. Pakistan is home to over 4 million Afghan migrants and refugees, about 1.7 million of whom are undocumented, according to Islamabad...Despite the challenges facing migrants, Pakistan is the only home many of them know and a sanctuary from the economic deprivation and extreme social conservatism that Afghanistan is grappling with, said Samar Abbas of the Sindh Human Rights Defenders Network, which is helping 200 Afghans seeking to remain.

China's growth is limited by bosses' desire for racial purity

The Economist, 5/3—For hundreds of years, China could boast of having more people than any other country. The title became official in the 1950s when the UN began compiling such data...A huge labour

supply also helped to boost its annual gdp growth, which has averaged close to 9% over the past three decades. Last month China's reign came to an end... the shift has troubling implications for the new number two. China's working-age population has been shrinking for a decade...Its population as a whole declined last year—and it is aging rapidly. This is likely to hinder economic growth and create an enormous burden of care...Yet when officials in Beijing mull solutions, one seems largely absent from the discussion: immigration. China has astonishingly few foreign-born residents. Of its 1.4bn people, around 1m, or just 0.1%, are immigrants. China's future economic and social needs resemble those that have made other societies recruit guest workers...opposition to multiculturalism is also fuelled by claims of Chinese racial purity long peddled by nationalists. Officials boast of a single Chinese bloodline dating back thousands of years.

Thousands of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli bosses

Al Jazeera, 11/13—WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned of a "dire and perilous" situation in Gaza's hospitals, saying more patients, including premature babies, are "tragically" dying. Gaza's two largest hospitals, al-Shifa and al-Quds, have both closed. Israeli snipers continue to fire at anyone near al-Shifa Hospital, trapping thousands inside. The International Committee of the

Red Cross has said the conditions under which civilians are evacuating in the Gaza Strip are "precarious and unsafe". European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has said "pauses" are needed to enable the evacuation of hospital patients who need urgent medical care. More than 11,100 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7, although the number has not been updated since contact was lost with key hospitals on Friday. In Israel, the death toll from Hamas's attacks stands at more than 1,200, having been revised downwards...

Babies dying in Gaza from Israeli and U.S. bombs

France24, 11/6—Shorouq is seven months pregnant with her first child. She is living in a shelter in Khan Younis in the south of Gaza. "How can I possibly give birth here?" she asks. "There's no access to healthcare and hygiene...More than 150 births take place every day...A lot of people, especially children, are suffering from infections, including skin sores and water-borne diseases like diarrhea," says Dr Bashar Murad, director of the Al Quds Hospital in Gaza City...Diarrhea can be deadly. The World Health Organization says it is the second-biggest cause of death in children under 5 years old around the world. Shorouq is thirsty and hungry all the time. "If I'm lucky, I get one small bottle of water a day and two pieces of bread, with processed cheese and sometimes dried thyme," she says.

THIS GENOCIDAL SYSTEM SHUT IT DOWN



resulting in continued oppression of workers. The continuation of a Zionist state that has oppressed Palestinians and its own working class is also not a solution. Class war against the misleaders in Tel Aviv and Gaza is the only solution to achieve liberation. Seeds of this possibility can be seen in the organizing being done by both Palestinian and Jewish organizations in the U.S. and, in smaller ways, in Israel. Jewish Voice for Peace and Not In Our Name are Jewish organizations that are calling for a ceasefire and protesting side by side with the Palestinian Youth Movement and other Palestinian organizations. In the past month, the almost daily rallies in D.C. have included thousands of these multi-ethnic local residents on the Mall, at the Capitol, and at the White House.

Israel: A vital ally of U.S. imperialism

Israel serves as an enforcer for U.S. imperialism in the Middle East. Its importance to the economic and military goals of the U.S. ruling class is huge. Biden admitted that the \$3 billion given to Israel every year is a great defense investment because otherwise, the U.S. would have to establish military bases and troops throughout the region to ensure U.S. power over pipelines, trade routes, and oil. The \$14 billion now going to Israel is a further investment for the U.S. financial oligarchs. Of course, Israeli fascism may not be enough to ensure U.S. power in the region. China is strengthening ties with U.S. archenemy Iran and is building strong diplomatic and economic ties with Saudi Arabia.

Continued from page 1

With our literature table as a base of operations, we engaged 100s of protestors in conversations about the need to crush capitalism, the root of genocidal evil, and to build a revolutionary party to fight for communist revolution. We met many old friends and made new ones with whom we will work in the coming months to build the PLP.

An independent mass movement Is growing

This rally was different from many large rallies in D.C. such as the women’s march in 2017 after Trump’s election or the gun control rally called after the Florida Parkland student massacre in 2018. Those rallies were supported and organized by the Democratic Party to bolster their electoral base. Today’s massive rally and march was much more like the anti-war protests

against the Iraq and Vietnam wars. It attacked the role of the U.S. in its consistent support for the Zionist regime. It led the mass movement away from slavish adherence to the Democratic Party, the organization that kills off working-class movements. No doubt the Democrats will attempt to mislead workers into the election trap, but for now, workers are not buying it!

Despite this positive development, the main strategies advocated by the organizations calling the rally are dead ends. These strategies are for a ceasefire now and the creation of a single or two-state solution. But what kind of state? Nationalism in the region or elsewhere has been shown historically to fail to liberate workers, as capitalists of various nationalities continue to exploit workers even after the overthrow of colonialism.

A Palestinian state with Hamas or a new formation approved by Israel would still be a capitalist enterprise

A single communist state is needed

For workers to build this unity, we communists must stress to other organizers that the reason for wars, displacement, and genocide of multitudes of our brother and sister workers around the globe is capitalism’s drive for maximum profits by seizing markets, resources, and labor. Anti-colonial struggles throughout the 20th century focused on national liberation from settler colonialism and imperialism. This strategy failed to end capitalism and exploitation. PLP has watched and participated in many of these struggles only to see the reversal of whatever gains were made in these battles. Some revolutionaries, like Thomas Sankara in Burkina Faso, Mohammed Babu in Zanzibar and Tanzania, and Walter Rodney in Guyana, aimed at a classless society within national liberation struggles but were not able to get past the new capitalists. We must not lose again! A communist strategy can achieve and preserve workers’ power!✊

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